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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/690,434	10/18/2000	Masahisa Kobayashi	MA-448-US	3744

30743 7590 09/02/2003

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EXAMINER

CHANG, ERIC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2185

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/690,434

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, MASAHISA

Examiner

Eric Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,128,743 to Rothenbaum.

4. As to claim 1, Rothenbaum discloses a bus power-supply device for a node comprising a power-supply connection and a serial bus connection, wherein:

[a] when none of a power-supply voltage of said node is supplied, a DC voltage is supplied from the serial bus [col. 2, lines 24-27];

[b] when said power-supply voltage is supplied, a path for supplying the DC voltage from said serial bus is cut off [col. 2, lines 20-24].

Rothenbaum teaches the node switches between being self-powered by a local power-supply, and being bus-powered via a serial bus connection, substantially as claimed.

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Furthermore, Rothenbaum teaches that the path for supplying DC voltage from the serial bus is cut off when the node is powered by the local power-supply [col. 7, lines 58-67].

5. As to claims 2, 4, 9, 11-13 and 17-18, Rothenbaum discloses the power-supply device further comprising:

[a] voltage detection means for detecting said power-supply voltage being supplied [col. 4, lines 58-66]; and

[b] selection means for supplying a DC voltage coming from said serial bus, and cutting off the path when the voltage detection means detects supply [col. 4, lines 58-66].

Rothenbaum teaches detecting whether power is being supplied by the power-supply by sampling the power-supply signal, and switching the access path to the serial bus voltage accordingly. As would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, there exists a path for supplying from the power-supply, and a path for supplying power from the serial bus, substantially as claimed, and Rothenbaum teaches that the second path is cut off when the voltage detection means detects supply. Furthermore, Rothenbaum discloses a semiconductor switch as the selection means [FIG. 3A, element 116, and col. 4, lines 58-66].

6. As to claims 3, 6 and 14, Rothenbaum discloses a comparator as a voltage detection means [FIG. 3E, element 104, and col. 5, lines 23-39].

7. As to claims 5, 7 and 15, Rothenbaum discloses a semiconductor switch as the selection means [FIG. 3A, element 116, and col. 4, lines 58-66]. Furthermore, it would be obvious to one

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of ordinary skill in the art that any other like switch may be used to control access to the bus power via a selection signal, such as a relay element, substantially as claimed.

8. As to claims 8 and 19, Rothenbaum discloses the power-supply device further comprising:

[a] a power-supply circuit for providing DC voltage for the serial bus and physical layer of the node [FIG. 4, and col. 4, lines 23-28];

[b] voltage detection means for detecting said power-supply voltage being supplied [col. 4, lines 58-66]; and

[c] selection means for supplying a DC voltage coming from said serial bus, and cutting off the path when the voltage detection means detects supply [col. 4, lines 58-66].

9. As to claim 10, Rothenbaum discloses the voltage detection means detects said power-supply voltage being supplied or not supplied by detecting an output voltage of said power-supply circuit [col. 4, lines 58-66]. Rothenbaum teaches the voltage signal is detected as an output from the power-supply circuit.

10. As to claim 16, Rothenbaum discloses a node connected to a serial bus, comprising a power-supply device comprising:

[a] a power-supply circuit for providing DC voltage for the serial bus and physical layer of the node [FIG. 4, and col. 4, lines 23-28];

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[b] selection means for supplying a DC voltage coming from said serial bus, and cutting off the path supplying a DC voltage coming from said serial bus when said power-supply voltage is being supplied [col. 4, lines 58-66].

Rothenbaum teaches that the node is a bus hub [FIG. 2, and col. 1, lines 59-67]. It is well known in the art that bus hubs comprise a plurality of power and signal connectors for connecting with other nodes, as well as a physical layer, substantially as claimed.


Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Chang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4612. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on (703) 305-9717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

ec
August 19, 2003



THOMAS LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100